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OF

LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

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Original Communications.

BYLAND ABBEY, YORKSHIRE.

BYLAND ABBEY is one of those relics of antiquity which remind us of departed greatness, and awaken curiosity not to be gratified. The names of many distinguished characters who once peopled this stately building, are doubtless

"Gone; glittering through the dream of things that were;"

at least are rarely heard of in connexion with that pile where once they

were wont to assemble. Such is the character of human greatness. However distinguished the warrior, the statesman, or the sage, his day of glory is limited to a brief span, and not only must he pass away, but even his memory, which in some exulting moments he flattered himself would prove immortal, also fades.

"Bound to the earth he lifts his eyes to Heaven,"

but, alas for the truth! is soon "no more seen," and then forgotten.

THE ANEMOMETER.

THE Anemometer, which is seen at the Polytechnic Institution, Regent street, is a meteorological instrument for self-registering the wind, as to its direction and force, and the rain, as to its quantity fallen on a given area in a certain time. A clock is attached to the apparatus to mark the time any of these changes take place; pencils are placed acting from this instrument, and marking upon a sheet of paper, which is divided into squares sufficient for the twenty-four hours, one square moving each hour: this part of the arrangement is placed in the building; on the outside may be seen a large vane to mark the direction of the wind, and underneath the point of it a pressure plate of a foot square to give the force with which it blows; there is also a rain-water gauge, three inches in diameter, by which the depth fallen is registered.

On the Thursday morning preceding that of the Friday which proved so fatal to the crew and passengers of the *Conqueror* and other vessels, the wind was due East, and remained so until a quarter past eight, A.M. It then took a N.W. direction, and at night the direction was N.W. by S. But the change taking place here was not very unusual, nor was there a pressure of more than half a pound upon the foot. Considerable rain fell during the day, and the mercury in the barometer sunk most unusually.*

At one o'clock on Friday morning the wind took the direction W. and by S.; and from two o'clock until noon, the mean was S.E. and by W. The pressure upon the foot was 6 lbs. The amount of rain which fell was, at ten, A.M., '25, or one quarter inch. After twelve o'clock noon, on Friday, the variations of the tempest can scarcely be followed; it veered through every point of the compass, and but for the Anemometer, its wild career would be unrecorded, except in its fatal and heart-rending results.

It is highly probable that we felt the effects of the storm in a much smaller degree than the inhabitants of many other towns did, especially Liverpool; we give this opinion, because the greatest pressure did not exceed, during the latter part of the day, 5 lbs. upon the foot, a comparatively small exertion of force. This may account for the few accidents which took place in London on the 13th instant.

On the 20th December, 1837, the pressure of the wind, at twelve o'clock noon, rose to 22 lbs. on the foot.

* Flint glass barometer.	inches.
Wednesday, the 11th, at 9, A.M.	29.114
Thursday	28.738
Friday, the day of the storm	28.354

On the 16th February, 1838, we had a violent storm from the East. The maximum force was 19 lbs. on the foot.

On March 20th, 1838, we had a tempest, exerting a pressure of 23 lbs.

In the calamitous storm, which passed over these islands on the 7th of January, 1839, the force exerted by the wind was, at one time, 30 lbs. on the square foot.

From these comparative statements, it will be evident that, in the metropolis, the tempest was not unusually severe. However, we must not measure the mean intensity of any storm by its force in one locality. A careful analysis of the records obtained by Mr Osler, led that gentleman to conclude that the storm on the 6th and 7th January, 1839, was a rotatory one, moving forward at the rate of about thirty to thirty-five miles per hour. The tendency of this eddy, or whirling of the air, would of course be to produce a vacuum in the centres, and a strong current upwards. The greatest intensity of this storm was across Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The theoretical view of the storm was deduced from a careful examination of the records of the anemometers, at the places referred to above, and has been singularly borne out by the evidence which has been collected from various parts of the country.

Mr Osler has been commissioned to place an anemometer, of the best construction, for the use of merchants, on our New Royal Exchange.

To show the power of the wind over a ship when taken by a sudden gust, we need only mention the force exerted upon the main-sail of a first-rate, that has canvas spread to an extent of surface of 4,704 superficial feet; taking the late storm at 6 lbs. would give a pressure upon it of 28,224 lbs.—and the storm of 7th January, 1839, at the 30 lbs. we get the enormous pressure of 141,120 lbs.—under such circumstances, no wonder we read of "her sails being torn to ribands."

THE RELICS OF LONDON.

NO. VIII. — THE TEMPLE CHURCH.

ALL praise be to the gentlemen of the law, for they are the true lovers of antiquity, and preservers of its relics! Who can look upon the old oaken doors of their chambers or the red-bricked walls of their inns, without admiring the scrupulous care with which they have been preserved?—Who can wade through the heaps of musty records, in their old English phrases and their old English characters, without glorying in the preservation of their ancient pages from destruction? But, if the gentlemen of the Law, as a body, deserve our thanks, to the gentlemen of the

Temple they are peculiarly due, for the liberality and taste with which they have re-decorated and restored the Temple Church.

Passenger! turn aside, for a moment, from the busy thoroughfare of Fleet street,—disentangle yourself from the living mass,—and in Inner Temple lane you will find the Church of St Mary the Virgin,—the only surviving, but majestic memorial of the grandeur, the wealth, and the piety of the celebrated military order of the Knights Templars. Pass beneath that elaborately-embellished Norman gateway, and you are in the "Round Church"—with but four exceptions, the only remaining specimen in England of one of the most curious and ancient styles of ecclesiastical architecture. Mark the groined arch, the rich cornice, the fluted column;—mark, too, yonder grim effigies, dressed in their coats of mail, as if ready to defend the honoured dust which lies beneath. Remember that all this beautiful and intricate work was executed seven centuries ago, when the arts were yet in their infancy and the power of machinery but limited;—and then say, does not its magnificence, its grandeur, and its beauty astonish and surprise you?

It was in the year 1185 that the Knights Templars of London completed "the round" of their church, and Heraclius, the patriarch of Jerusalem, being then, by a fortunate accident, in England, was prevailed upon to consecrate it, and the church was accordingly dedicated to "the Holy Virgin." But the grandeur and the wealth of the Templars producing their natural consequences, rivalry and jealousy, and exciting the envy and cupidity of those sovereigns who had before been the loudest in their professions of friendship and devotion, caused their fall and entire dispersion in 1311. All their valuable possessions throughout Christendom were forfeited, and their Temple in London granted by Edward II. to the Earl of Pembroke, from whom, in the next reign, it again reverted to the King, who conferred it on the rival order of St John of Jerusalem. In the time of Edward III. the Temple was granted to a Society of Students of the Common Law, in whose possession it still remains. The church was repaired in 1682, and again in 1811, but the most thorough and perfect restoration was completed in the early part of the present winter, at the expense and under the auspices of the Societies of the Inner and the Middle Temple.

How interesting are the reflections which crowd upon our mind as we look upon this ancient pile, and review the associations which it suggests. The warlike, the brave, and the pious of the middle ages have worshipped on the spot where we now worship,—their ashes slumber peacefully

beneath our feet,—and though its former possessors were hunted down and persecuted,—though centuries have passed away since the martial Templars were dispersed and despoiled,—the Temple Church yet stands, its walls yet echo the sound of prayers, and from it still ascends the hymn of thanksgiving. Proud and wealthy as they were—vain and rejoicing in their strength,—where are the Knights Templars now?—the work of their erection—the walls which they had reared, have survived them, and the haughty warriors are indebted to this last relic for a memorial of their fame.

ALEX. ANDREWS.

ROYAL AND PARLIAMENTARY TELEGRAPH.

We are enabled this week to make a communication interesting to men of science, curious and most important in itself. Mr Cook, the joint patentee with Professor Wheatstone, of the Voltaic Telegraph, has been commissioned to lay down a line from the Paddington station of the Great Western Railway to Windsor Castle, and carry it thence to the Parliament Houses and Buckingham Palace. The effect of this will be, that on important occasions, when the Sovereign may be at Windsor, any intelligence of extraordinary interest can be transmitted to her Majesty in a second—nay, in less time. The voltaic electricity which governs the motion of the telegraph travels at the rate of two hundred and eighty-eight thousand miles in a second! This has been proved by the delicate instrument invented by Professor Wheatstone. The new and most singular arrangement will be of great value in connexion with the public service. When Cabinet Councils sit on momentous questions, her Majesty can be acquainted with the result of their deliberations as instantaneously as if she were present. When the Queen presides over the meetings of her Ministers in person at Windsor, it not unfrequently happens that information on a particular subject may be required from the departments in London; and hitherto, when this has been the case, it of course became necessary to send an express to town to obtain what was called for, before the business could satisfactorily proceed. Now it, in most cases, will be procured while the Council is sitting, and indeed in the course of four or five minutes, which before would have caused a delay of as many hours. This will not only be of use on great occasions, but in a common way its everyday value will be considerable. During the session of Parliament, for instance, on every question of interest her Majesty can learn the division, or the progress made in a debate, one moment after the House has

divided, or any particular orator has risen to speak or resumed his seat. Thus a more rapid communication between the Sovereign and her Ministers for the time being will be established than has ever been known or thought of before. How desirable this is, seeing the immense accumulation of business which the course of events has produced in this great nation, need not here be descanted upon. We can

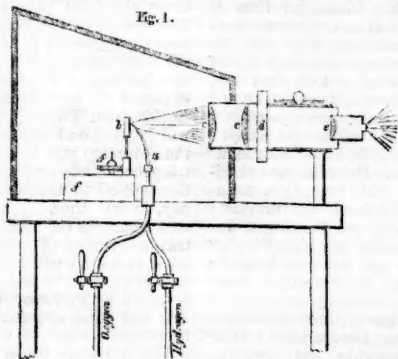
scarcely anticipate that it will be undervalued by any one. Those who hold that second thoughts are best, will surely admit that the first cannot be dismissed too soon by correct information; and this scientific contrivance largely contributing to the rapid dispatch of public affairs, must tend to the further aggrandizement and well-being of the country.

DISSOLVING VIEWS.

As it is the object of this work to blend as much instruction, with amusement, as possible, we intend taking up a series of the most interesting subjects, which are in operation within this great metropolis. Among the many hundreds of thousands of visitors who have seen those beautiful optical illusions, the "Dissolving Views," at

the "Royal Polytechnic Institution," how few are acquainted with the arrangements of the apparatus and the simplicity with which its manipulation is conducted. We will, however, endeavour to enlighten the reader by a brief explanation. The light employed in their exhibition is what is termed the oxy-hydrogen light, and consists simply of a stream of the two gases, oxygen and hydrogen, passing through a jet (*fig. 1, a*)

Fig. 1.



on to a cylinder of lime (*b*), which cylinder revolves by a clock movement (*ff*), the two gases being mixed exactly in the same proportions as the component parts of water, viz., two volumes of hydrogen and one of oxygen. These two gases, as they play from the jet, are ignited, and the flame is allowed to fall on the cylinder of lime; the heat given off by them is very great, combustion of the lime is the consequence, and the beautiful light (which is only a very brilliant spec on the lime) is the well-known result. The rays are now collected by a large lens (or two plano-convex lenses, as seen in the diagram (*cc*) called condensers, and is thence refracted through the picture *d* (which is painted on glass)* intended for representation

through another lens (*e*) called the object-glass, from which it is transmitted on to the disc, for the view of the spectator. The operation of dissolving is conducted in the following manner:—In front of the two lanterns (for be it understood that two are necessarily made use of) is placed a standard (*fig. 2, a*) within which is

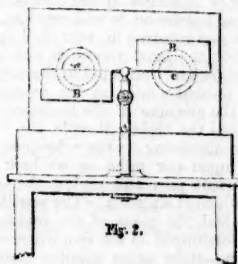


Fig. 2.

* Your glasses should be painted with transparent colours, as those of the ordinary magic lantern. Canada Balsam diluted, or thinned with turpentine, is a good vehicle to mix your colours with. The bladder colours will do, if properly selected, for ordinary purposes.

a rack for a pinion to act upon, which enables the operator to elevate or depress a portion of the apparatus called the fans (bb); these fans being placed (as seen in the diagram) in such a position that when one of them is in the act of passing over the orifice of one lantern (c), the other surface should pass away from the other lantern, so that when the two fans are in a straight line, with the centre of the two object-glasses, the picture has that beautiful indistinct appearance of the change of subject, which creates so much delight and wonder, each picture at this time having only half its proper modicum of illumination, consequently only an indistinct image of each is seen on the disc indeed it is simply like a person opening gradually first one eye and closing the other, and so on alternately; and as "Tom Cooke" facetiously remarked, when the *modus operandi* was explained to him—"then you do it like winking."

Let us now caution our young philosophers who might feel disposed to amuse themselves with an exhibition of this kind, that serious accidents might arise from in-

attention to the following facts, viz.: they must be careful that the gases in passing through the pipes from the two gasometers are conducted through a wire gauze chamber or rather a proper oxy-hydrogen blow pipe (which must be prepared on purpose), for should the oxygen gas regurgitate into the hydrogen pipe, an explosive mixture of the gases would be the consequence, and a serious accident might ensue. This apparatus is also used for illustrating the interesting lecture on the heavenly systems, which will take place during the usual season, on the commencement of which we shall give a farther notice.

In places where it is difficult to obtain an apparatus of the kind described, two common magic lanterns may be used for a room when the disc is not more than eight feet in diameter, with the ordinary lamp-light; let the lanterns be both alike, and place them close together, and in such a manner as both shall give their rays upon the same field of the disc; you have only then to make a fan, as shown in the diagram, and your apparatus is complete.



Three bulls passant, sable armed or crest on a chapeau, gules turned up ermine, a bull passant sable ducally gorged or to be placed under the arms of Shaftesbury.

ORIGIN OF THE NOBLE HOUSE OF SHAFTESBURY.

BIOGRAPHY claims few more remarkable characters than Anthony Ashley Cooper, first Earl of Shaftesbury. His father was Sir John Cooper, Bart., of Rickbarn, in the county of Southampton. His mother was Anne, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Anthony Ashley, of Winborn, from whom he inherited an estate of 8,000*l.* per annum. He was born at Winborn, July 22, 1621, and educated under the eye of his parents. At an early period he exhibited so much talent that extraordinary things were looked for from him, and the expectations indulged, were not disappointed in the sequel. When but ten years of age, his father died. At the age of fifteen he became a fellow-commoner of Exeter College, Oxford, under the tuition of the cele-

brated Dr Prideaux, who was then rector. He remained at the University only two years, but when he left he had obtained a character for great assiduity and extraordinary genius. He went to Lincoln's Inn to study the law, and at the age of nineteen became member of Parliament for Tewkesbury, in the year 1640. When the civil war broke out he took his stand on the side of the King. He was friendly to peace, and thought concessions ought to be made on both sides. Had his opinion prevailed, much confusion and bloodshed might have been spared to the nation. He is said, by Mr Locke, to have submitted to the King, at Oxford, a plan for treating with the Parliamentary garrisons. His advice was not followed, and he in consequence became an object of suspicion with the Royalists. Disgusted at this, he was

induced to consult his own safety by joining the Parliament cause, who received him most gladly. He raised troops in Dorsetshire, and, in 1644, rendered the party whose cause he had espoused some important services. The Royalists still looked up to him with hope, and he was engaged in private negotiations between the King and Denzil Lord Hollis, at the treaty of Uxbridge, for which he was afterwards called to a severe account in Parliament. After the battle of Naseby he attempted to abate the exorbitant power of Parliament. To effect this he encouraged the "Club-men," a body of malcontents, in several counties so called, to take up arms, and declare themselves a third party, and to insist on an arrangement which would restore them to the benefits of superseded law, and the protection of the Constitution. The plan was countenanced by some of the Parliamentarians, but disapproved of by Cromwell, who attacked the "Club-men," killed many, and dispersed the rest. The scheme, in consequence, failed, but Cooper does not appear to have suffered from it, and shortly after we find him serving the office of high sheriff for the county of Wiltshire. He afterwards became a member of the convention which succeeded the Long Parliament. In 1654 he was again a member in the House of Commons, and here the part he acted was singular and extraordinary.

A man thrown into such various situations must necessarily have many enemies. Such was the fate of Sir Anthony Cooper. He had, however, the consolation of being zealously vindicated by admiring friends, and though various reverses befel him, the result was not so tragical for him as for others who had pursued the same ambitious course. The truth was, he knew how to temper his ardour with patience, and to wait for that "tide in the affairs of men" which a greater than he had told "leads on to fortune" if taken at the proper moment. While Oliver Cromwell ruled the land he did not make himself sufficiently obnoxious to the Protector, to bring ruin on himself without advantage to the absent King, but, says his admiring biographer,

"With what admirable polity did he influence and manage the councils he was concerned in during the interregnum, towards his Majesty's interest? with what exquisite subtilty did he turn all the channels of their councils to swell this stream? And how unweariedly did he tug at the helm of state, till he had brought his great master safe into the desired port?"

Though he did not disdain to consult prudence, he would not tamely acquiesce in all the wrongs done to the people, under the profaned name of liberty. In 1656 it was tyrannically ordered by Cromwell

that those who were chosen by the people to present them should not be allowed to sit in Parliament without a certificate from the Government. A copy of the form of this remarkable document we subjoin.

"Comt. Bucks. These are to certify that — is returned by Indenture to serve in this present Parliament for the said County, and approved by his Highness Council. September 17th, 1656. Nath. Taylor, Clerk of the Commonwealth in Chancery."

This was of course the subject of great complaint, and though Cromwell was then in the zenith of his power, Sir Anthony did not hesitate to join in a very determined remonstrance against his unconstitutional proceedings. In this the Lord Protector was not spared. The remonstrance says—

"We believe the rumour is now gone through the nation, that armed men employed by the L. P. have prevented the free meeting and sitting of the intended Parliament, and have forcibly shut out of doors such members as he and his council supposed would not be frightened or flattered to betray their country, and give up their religion, lives, and estates to be at his will, to serve his lawless ambition. But we fear that the slavery, rapines, oppressions, cruelties, murders, and confusions that are comprehended in this horrid fact, are not so sensibly discerned, or so much laid to heart as the case requires; and we doubt not, but as the common practice of the man hath been, the name of God, and religion, and formal fasts and prayers will be made use of to colour over the blackness of the fact. We do therefore, in faithfulness to God and our country, hereby remonstrate."

It afterwards proceeds to describe the doings of the Protector and his brother State Reformers in still more bitter language. It declares—

"They now render the people such fools or beasts, as know not who are fit to be trusted by them with their lives, estates, and families. But he and his council that daily devour their estates and liberties, will judge who are fit to counsel and advise about laws to preserve their estates and liberties. Thus doth he now openly assume a power to pack an assembly of his confidants, parasites, and confederates, and to call them a Parliament, that he may from thence pretend that the people have consented to become his slaves, and to have their persons and estates at his discretion. And if the people shall tamely submit to such a power, who can doubt but he may pack such a number as will obey all his commands, and consent to his taking what part of our estates he pleaseth, and to impose what yokes he thinks fit to make us draw in."

It adds of Oliver Cromwell :—

"But now he hath assumed an absolute arbitrary sovereignty (as if he came down from the throne of God) to create in himself and his confederates such powers and authorities as must not be under the cognizance of the people's Parliaments. His proclamations he declares shall be binding laws to Parliaments themselves; he takes upon him to be above the whole body of the people of England, and to judge and censure the whole body, and every member of it, by no other rule or law than his pleasure, as if he were their absolute lord, and had bought all the people of England for his slaves."

He was constantly in communication with the Royal party, and while careful to avoid giving offence to the ruling powers, "his house was a sanctuary for distressed Royalists." This transpired to his prejudice in 1659, and he was accused of "keeping intelligence with the King," and of having raised troops in conjunction with Sir George Booth to restore Charles the Second, though at that time Sir Anthony was a commissioner of the army and a member of Parliament; he was imprisoned, and had some difficulty in relieving his character from the stain of loyalty!

But a brighter scene now opened for him, and he had the honour of contributing to the peaceful triumph of General Monk. By Charles he was named a member of the Privy Council, and placed, says his biographer, "above his Majesty's royal brother, the Duke of Gloucester, and even General Monk himself, whom his Majesty used to call his political father," and about three days before the coronation he was created Baron Ashley of Wimbourne, St Giles's, and Lord Cooper of Paulett.

In 1672 he was advanced in the Peerage, and was made Earl of Shaftesbury.

He filled some of the highest offices of the State with credit, and in the year last named became Lord High Chancellor of England. In this situation his merits were unequal, but there is much to challenge admiration. A speech addressed by him to Baron Thurland, in 1673, deserves to be

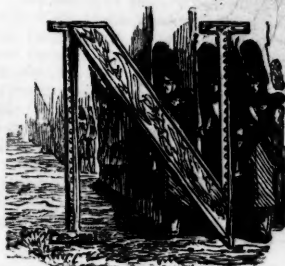
honourably quoted. After strongly insisting on maintaining the King's prerogative, he manifested a most commendable and manly anxiety to save the subject from oppression. The exactions of the harpies of the Court at that period, rapacious and hateful as they have been proved at a more recent date, no doubt richly deserved the sharp rebuke conveyed in the following wise and humane suggestion :—

"There is another thing I have observed in this court, which I shall mind you of, which is, when the court hearkens too much to the clerks and officers of it, and are too apt to send out process, when the money may be raised by other ways more easy to the people. I do not say that the King's duty should be lost, or that the strictest course should not be taken, rather than that be; but when you consider how much the officers of this court and the under-sheriffs get by process upon small sums, more than the King's duty comes to; and upon what sort of people this falls, to wit, the farmer, husbandman, and clothier, in the country, that is generally the collector, constable, and tythingman, and so disturbs the industrious part of the nation, you will think it fit to make that the last way when no other will serve."

We cannot refrain from adding the conclusion of the same speech. It pretty clearly tells that the judges of that period were, in his opinion, a little too anxious to "prepare for a rainy day." The pithy exhortation which he gives them to live in a manner consistent with the dignity of the situations which they filled cannot but amuse. He says—

"In the last place let me recommend to you so to manage the King's justice and revenue, as the King may have most profit, and the subject least vexation. Raking for old debts, the number of informations, projects upon concealments, I could not find in the eleven years' experience I have had in this court, ever to advantage the Crown; but such proceedings have for the most part delivered up the King's good subjects into the hands of the worst of men."

(To be continued.)



APOLEON BONAPARTE for nearly half a century has been a most conspicuous character in the history of Europe. After the numerous histories written of him, it might be supposed that little relating to him remained to be made known; there is, however, reason to believe that public attention will be attracted in a most extraordinary way to what is yet to be told and exhibited before many weeks are passed.

It is known that a Bonaparte museum is to be established, in which numerous autographs, connected with all the most remarkable periods of his history, portraits, busts, and a vast variety of rare objects will appear. The museum

tor, a gentleman of fortune, has devoted a number of years to those researches after them, and expended many thousands of pounds to obtain them. The result of his labours has been to give him a much higher opinion of Bonaparte's genius, valour, and humanity, than he had at their commencement, and admiration has been raised to enthusiasm. He believes the evidence which he can bring forward will prove to any impartial inquirer, not only that Bonaparte was one of the greatest soldiers, but that he was one of the best of men.

During the war it was the business of many writers in this country to collect and magnify everything relating to Napoleon that could inflame the public mind against him. The charges preferred by Sir Robert Wilson, which implicated him in the murder of Kleber, and the poisoning of his troops at Jaffa, caused many to regard him with horror. It has been stated Sir Robert afterwards regretted writing on this subject as he had done. His French biographers treat the former charge with great disdain. That he accelerated the death of some of his troops who were in a hopeless state, that they might not fall into the hands of a barbarous enemy, has been justified as an act of mercy.

Bourrienne has recorded many noble and generous actions which, if he is to be depended upon, were performed by Napoleon. One of these we are about to quote, in which Bonaparte, it will be remarked, speaks from his secretary more opportunities for showing mercy to the unfortunate. Bourrienne writes:

"I had escaped for a few moments to meet Mademoiselle Poitricourt. On entering I found the First Consul in the cabinet, surprised to find himself alone, as I was not in the habit of quitting it without his knowledge. 'Where have you

been then?' said he. 'I have just been to see a relation of mine, who has a petition to lay before you.' 'What is it about?' I told him of the melancholy situation of M. Defeu (an *émigré* who had been taken with arms in his hands). His first answer was terrible. 'No pity,' cried he, 'for the *émigrés*; he who fights against his country is a child that wishes to murder his mother.' The first burst of wrath passed over, I began again; I represented M. Defeu's youth, and the good effect it would have. 'Well,' said he, 'write, "The First Consul orders that the sentence of M. Defeu be suspended."' He signed this laconic order, which I sent off instantly to General Ferino. I informed my cousin of it, and was easy as to the consequences of the affair. The next morning I had scarcely entered the First Consul's chamber before he said, 'Well, Bourrienne! you say nothing more of your M. Defeu: are you satisfied?' 'General! I cannot find terms in which to express my gratitude.' 'Ah! bah!—But I do not like to do things by halves; write to Ferino, that I desire M. Defeu may be set at liberty immediately. I am making an ingrate—well! so much the worse for him. Always apply to me in matters of this kind; when I refuse, it is because it is impossible to do otherwise.'"

'The History of Napoleon,' from the French of Laurent de l'Ardeche, now publishing by Messrs Willoughby and Co., furnishes many noble traits; but one anecdote, illustrated by the clever sketch which appears in this number, shows a kindly feeling, apart from theatrical display, to which Bonaparte was somewhat addicted, towards offending British tars, that claims our warmest praise. We give it as it appears in the work we have named.

"During the sojourn of Bonaparte at



the camp of Boulogne, two English sailors, prisoners at Verdun, escaped and reached Boulogne, where they constructed a little boat, without any other tools than their knives, out of some pieces of wood, which they put together as well as they could, in order to attempt to cross over to England in this frail bark, which one man could easily have carried on his back. Their labour being finished, the two sailors put to sea, and endeavoured to reach an English frigate, which was cruising in sight of the coast. They had scarcely set out, when the custom-house officers perceived them. Being shortly seized and conveyed back to port, they were led before the Emperor, who had demanded to see them, as well as their small vessel, in consequence of the sensation which their daring attempt had made throughout the camp. 'Is it really true,' asked the Emperor, 'that you could have thought of crossing the sea in that?'—'Ah! sire,' said they, 'if you doubt it, give us permission, and you shall see us depart.'—'I will do so willingly; you are bold, enterprising men; I admire courage wherever it is found; but I do not wish you to expose your lives; you are free; and more, I will have you conducted on board an English ship. You will mention in London, the esteem in which I hold brave men, even though they be my enemies.' These two men, who would have been shot as spies if the Emperor had not had them brought before him, obtained not only their liberty; Napoleon gave them also several pieces of gold. Later, he was fond of relating this fact to his companions in exile at St Helena."

Literature.

Russia: St Petersburg, Moscow, Kharhoff, Rija, Odessa, the German Provinces on the Baltic, the Steppes, the Crimea, and the Interior of the Empire. By J. G. Kohl. London: Chapman and Hall.

THE Russian empire is as yet but imperfectly known in England. Much to gratify rational curiosity is yet to be told. This work will afford the reader no small gratification. M. Kohl gives vivid pictures of the people. We hasten to quote a portion of what he tells of the higher classes. They, it seems, call their *canaille tshornoi narod*, which means literally, black people; but as *tshornoi* is often used synonymously with *dirty*, the expression may be taken to mean "dirty people;" in short, "the unwashed," and to this comprehensive class are considered to belong the peasantry, particularly when they make their appearance in the towns, the street rabble, beggars, and the common labourers.—An individual belonging to the *tshornoi narod* is called a *mushik*.

In all uncivilized countries drinking to excess prevails. It is well known that, during the reign of Catherine the Great, drunkenness was universal in Russia. To such an extent was this odious and pernicious vice carried even in the best society, that it is recorded, at a party where the Empress was present, a written notice was put up that no lady could enter in a state of intoxication. M. Kohl says of Russia at the present moment—

"In the countless booths and drinking-houses in St Petersburg in the year 1827, brandy and other liquors were sold to the amount of eight millions of rubles; in 1833 to eight millions and a half. That gives for every inhabitant, women and children included, twenty rubles yearly for brandy, or about two and a quarter pailfuls. If we exclude the children, foreigners, persons of rank, and the sick, we may form an idea, what immoderate toppers there must remain amongst the adults of the *tshornoi narod*! The government is endeavouring to bring beer more into use, and thereby diminish the consumption of brandy. It is therefore consolatory to hear that beer is now better made and much more drunk in St Petersburg than formerly. In 1827 the amount consumed in beer and mead was forty-two thousand rubles; in 1832 seven hundred and sixty thousand rubles. In the last four years the consumption of brandy in St Petersburg increased in the following ratio:—100, 105, 110, 115, somewhat less than the increase of the population; the consumption of beer as 1, 3, 6, 11. The finer kinds of brandy and liquors show the greatest increase; a proof that the taste is more refined, and that the amateurs must be on the increase among the upper classes."

The picture furnished of the Russian character generally is, however, rather agreeable.

"Any other nation in the bonds of Russian despotism and serfdom, among whom such roguery and cheating were in practice, who were fettered in such a darkness of ignorance and superstition, and so plunged in sensual excess, would be the most detestable and unbearable people on the face of the earth. The Russians, on the contrary, with all their faults and sufferings, are very tolerably agreeable, gay, and contented. Their roguery scarcely shows amiss in them, their slavery they bear with as much ease as Atlas bore the weight of the globe, and out of their brandy-casks they swallow the deepest potations even with a grace. A disease in an otherwise healthy body manifests itself by the most decisive symptoms, while in a thoroughly corrupted system the evil will glide through all parts of the body without coming to an explosion, because one evil struggles with and counter-

acts the other; so in Russia those manifold evils are not seen in the full light of day as in other lands. The whole is veiled by a murky atmosphere, through which the right and the wrong cannot be clearly discerned. Everything is compromised,—smoothed over; no sickness is brought into a strong light, or compelled to a palpable revelation. With us the boys in the street shout after a drunken man, and pelt him with dirt and hard names, which raises a disturbance immediately. This is never the case in Russia, and a stranger might, from the absence of drunken squabbles and noise, be led to conclude that they were a sober people, till he observed that the absence of all attention to the fact is the cause of his mistake. To his no small astonishment he will see two, three, or four people, apparently in full possession of their reason, walking together; suddenly the whole party will reel and stagger, and one or the other measure his length in the mire, where he lies unnoticed, unless by his brother or a police-officer.

"Our German drunkards are coarse, noisy, and obtrusive; intoxication makes an Italian or a Spaniard gloomy and revengeful, and an Englishman brutal; but the Russians, the more the pity, in the highest degree humorous and cheerful. In the first stage of drunkenness the Russians begin to gossip and tell stories, sing and fall into each other's arms; at a more advanced stage even enemies embrace, abjuring all hostility amidst a thousand protestations of eternal friendship; then all strangers present are most cordially greeted, kissed, and caressed, let them be of what age or rank they may. It is all 'little father,' 'little mother,' 'little brother,' 'little grandmother,' and if their friendliness be not returned with a like warmth, then it is 'Ah, little father, you are not angry that we are tipsy? Ah, it's very true, we're all tipsy together! Ah, it is abominable! Pray forgive us—punish us—beat us.' Then ensue new caresses; they embrace your knees, kiss your feet, and entreat you to forgive their obtrusiveness.

"It is curious enough, however, that even in drunkenness a Russian's native cunning never forsakes him; it is very difficult to move him, be he ever so drunk, to any baseness not to his advantage. The deeper a Russian drinks the more does the whole world appear to him *couleur de rose*, till at last his raptures break forth in a stream of song; and, stretched upon his sledge talking to himself and all good spirits, he returns at length to his own home, whither his wiser horse has found his way unguided."

Now for the ladies:—

"Since the Emperor Nicholas has introduced the old Russian costume for ladies

at his court (the gentlemen keep their uniforms), there is no other court in the world that presents so splendid an appearance on gala days. The chief garment is the *sarafan*, a wide open robe without sleeves; underneath is worn a full long-sleeved gown. The *sarafan* itself is generally made of velvet, richly embroidered with gold, of different colours, and varying in the embroidery according to the rank of the lady. The under-dress is lighter in colour, generally of silk, and the long sleeves clasped at the wrist with gold bands. The hair is braided smooth, and adorned with the *kokoshnik*, a kind of diadem, crescent-shaped, with the points turned towards the back. This *kokoshnik*, richly set with pearls and precious stones, and from the back of which descends a long veil, gives every lady the air of a queen."

On the subject of the Arts we read—

"The most celebrated artists of the St Petersburg Academy are Bruloff, Orlovsky, and Tolstoy.

"Orlovsky has devoted himself to cabinet paintings, the subjects from Russian life, which will long continue to afford abundant materials where the artist knows how to choose them. Orlovsky, the Russian Horace Vernet, is particularly famous for his horses, which he has studied in the Steppes. One of his best, and best-known pictures, is his 'Courier.' A Russian troika is carried on at full speed by three wild horses. The animals themselves are all fire and spirit, from nostril to the extremity of every hair; the carriage rushes on over stock and stone through a whirlwind of dust; the bearded courier sits upright as a dart upon his seat, firmly grasping the reins, and securely guiding the steeds, who fly onwards as if borne on the wings of the wind.

"Tolstoy is known as a sculptor; his subjects modelled in wax are executed with the greatest precision and taste. The campaign of 1812 has been illustrated by him in a series of bas-reliefs.

"Bruloff is the most celebrated of the three, yet he has only produced one absolutely original picture, the 'Destruction of Pompeii.'"

Ainsworth's Magazine.

'WINDSOR CASTLE' is continued, and illustrated with twelve engravings, embracing the varieties of curious, interesting, and beautiful. The 'Introduction to Mr O'Connell,' is a brisk "Much ado about Nothing." In the 'Town Life of the Restoration,' Mr Bell, the author of 'Marriage,' and 'Mothers and Daughters,' comes forward. He is somewhat redundant in his poetical quotations, but this proves him thoroughly imbued with the

subject to which he has now turned his able pen. His pictures of the Strand when it was a bleak, rugged highway, and of Pallmall, when it was a stretch of neglected pasture ground, called St James's fields, are correct and striking; and as this Essay is marked Part I, we find in it goodly promises that the Parts which are to follow will be rich in information, and rare amusement. There are other articles of merit which we cannot particularise; but we are desirous of extracting 'Recollections of an Execution in China,' as valuable at this moment, from the insight it affords us of the manners, civilization, and humanity of our new friends.

"Soon was heard a loud hum, appearing to proceed from a distant part of the town: gradually it neared, and might be recognised as the clamour of loud voices, and the trampling of hurrying feet. In a few moments thousands rushed in through every avenue of the square; and in an incredibly short space of time, the large area was filled with a mass of people of almost every nation. Here and there were small clusters of English or American seamen, standing almost a head and shoulders above the under-sized Chinese and Portuguese; here, was a white turban—there, the showy head-dress of the Lascars, with their fine but savage eyes, peering like balls of fire from the mass by which they were surrounded. Not a sound was to be heard, except an occasional shuffling among the sailors, who seemed inclined to jostle aside the foreigners, that they might themselves obtain as favourable a view as possible. Presently was heard the monotonous rattling of a drum, and almost at the same time the mournful procession appeared, escorted by a few mandarins of inferior rank (and amongst them the one whom the culprit had wounded, and who carried his arm in a sling), accompanied by about twenty or thirty official servants. These pressed forward, the crowd eagerly making way for them, and ranged themselves around the table, the mandarins standing at each end. Lastly came the criminal, guarded by two well-armed Chinese soldiers, and looking as unconcerned as if he were going to his dinner! But his countenance soon changed; and on perceiving the instrument he trembled excessively, shuddered, and turned deadly pale: indeed he seemed as if, until that moment, he had not thought of the death to which he was doomed, and then the dread of it came upon him in excess. He was conducted to the head of the table, and immediately four of the officials, who proved to be the executioner and his three assistants, stepped forward and received him from the soldiers. His hands, which were tied behind his back by the wrists, were then

unbound, and in no very gentle manner he was lifted, or rather thrown, upon the table.

"The chief executioner now called aloud, inquiring whether any of the sufferer's friends wished a final interview. Immediately I felt a shock in the crowd behind me, and there rushed forward a man who, I afterwards understood, was the brother of the unhappy wretch; he was much troubled, but quickly produced about a dozen pieces of circular paper, about the size of shillings, covered with tin-foil. These he gave his brother, and then proceeded by means of steel, flint, and touch-paper, to obtain a light, which he held, that the prisoner might burn his paper antidiotes against suffering in the other world. He did so; lighting one after the other until they were consumed: there were eleven of them. The brother then embraced him for the last time, and directly afterwards, setting up a loud, wailing cry, and covering his face with his hands, rushed amongst the crowd.

"The executioner now called again; and, as he said, for the last time, making the same inquiry. No one answered; and the culprit was then placed in the position in which he was to suffer. He was now dreadfully affected, and seemed almost dead with fright. The rope at the head of the table was then placed over his neck—his face being upward; the rope at the foot was placed over his ankles, and his hands were bound to the staples I have mentioned, by the wrists. Each of the executioners produced a handle like that of a grindstone, and fixing it on the spindle of the roller, stood awaiting the signal to commence their horrid operations. It was given by the wounded mandarin; and the rope over the neck was soon drawn tight. Still they turned—tighter and tighter it became: the sufferer's face grew black and livid—his eyeballs seemed starting from their sockets—the blood spouted from his eyes and nostrils—his tongue protruded from his mouth, and was much swollen—his hands, too, were swollen almost to bursting—his ankles were broken, and his feet almost separated from the legs by the cruel cord. They wound the handles with extreme slowness, evidently anxious to protract the poor wretch's sufferings.

"During this time neither of the mandarins had spoken, or in any way interfered; and on looking at them at this juncture, I perceived on the countenance of him who had been wounded by Sam-se, a most diabolically malignant smile. As his foe's pain increased, so evidently did his pleasure. He seemed to drink in unutterable gratification in thus beholding the ignominious death and agonizing sufferings of the poor culprit. And in this man—this

mandarin, was fully developed the despicable character of the Chinese as a nation; diabolically revengeful, dishonourably crafty, and despairingly brave.

"The sufferer was now writhing in a dreadful agony. He raised his head, knocking it violently on the table; but on repeating this action two or three times, one of the executioners seized his hair, and held his head to the table. At this time a drizzling shower fell, and for a few moments the executioners suspended the turning. The rain, which visibly refreshed Sam-se, threw an indescribable gloom over the multitude, who had until now remained in awful silence; but now, when the prisoner's sufferings were thus inhumanly protracted, loud threatening murmurs arose, which caused a mandarin to command the resumption of the labour of death. It was now plain that the dreadful scene was about to close, for the sufferer was apparently insensible. After a turn or two more he heaved two or three short gasps, and all was over.

"On a signal from one of the mandarins the turning ceased, and immediately the rope was removed from the neck, showing the head almost severed from the body. The interval between the first and last signal was nineteen minutes! Such is their barbarous protraction of a culprit's sufferings."

Cold Water Cure, with Directions for its Self-application, and a full Account of the Cures performed by its Discoverer, Vincent Priessnitz. Strange, Paternoster row; E. Smith, Wellington street, Strand.

It is announced that the fourth thousand of this work is now on sale; we may, therefore, conclude that the public have not thrown cold water on the German peasant doctor. The statements here submitted we cannot vouch for, but they are most important if true; and the subject is one of sufficient moment to deserve the best attention of the faculty. Whatever exaggeration they may suspect on the part of the cold water cure discoverer, all that is advanced cannot be false; and the prevailing system of medicine in this country is not so perfect as to make improvement appear altogether impossible.

The Hand Book of Water Colours. By W. Winsor and H. C. Newton. Tilt and Bogue, Fleet street.

Nor for the public generally, but for water-colour painters, including of course those who wish to become such, is this little work designed. The writers have given much attention to the nature of the pigments or materials from which the artist

must draw his tints, and it will be likely to save the painter or amateur an infinity of experiments, by at once showing him the path to the result he looks for.

— Dr Southey, it may be said, is no more of this world. His lady, formerly the celebrated Caroline Bowles, in a letter to a friend, gives a deeply affecting account of the present situation of the poet of "Thalaba." He has been wholly deaf for the last two years; and all that his accomplished and affectionate wife can flatter herself with in regard to him is, that he appears to know her.

"Fair promised sunbeams of terrestrial bliss;
Health, gallant hopes, and are ye sunk to this!"

— Mr Braham has returned from America, and is again in the field as a vocalist. From the time he reached the age of fifty, certain papers have been pleased to amuse themselves with magnifying his years. They have now succeeded in bringing them up to seventy or eighty, and are likely soon to reach a hundred. The lovers of song will perhaps be consoled to know that Mr Braham originally came out at the Royalty, as a boy, in 1789, being then nine or ten years of age. He must therefore now be about sixty-four.

Discellaneous.

GHOSTS.

It is astonishing how little we hear of ghosts now-a-days, at East in London. The provinces, we believe, are not exactly in the same situation. Spectres, like popular plays and exhibitions, having had their day (night, perhaps, we ought to say, speaking of shadows of the departed) in the capital, are withdrawn for the amusement of those who reside in the country. Even there, however, they seem to have almost had their run, as many months have elapsed since the last well-attested supernatural visitation was recorded.

Yet there were periods when any remarkable tragedy was almost invariably followed by startling apparitions, and for centuries this was believed generally to occur when the victim or victims who had fallen had not been duly interred in consecrated ground. Such a persuasion in the middle ages, it has been insinuated by some modern writers, originated in the interested representations of the clergy, who, in favouring such ideas, had a view to their own benefit. It is, however, in proof that a like feeling prevailed at a much earlier date than that supposed; if not in favour of consecrated ground, at least in favour of consecrating fire.

Suetonius Tranquillus, as translated by Philemon Holland, in describing the end of

Caius Cæsar Caligula, A. U. C. 794, offers the following authentic narration:—

"Upon the ninth day before the Kalends of Februarie about one of the clocke after noone: Doubting with himselfe, whether he should rise to dinner or no? (for that his stomacke was yet rawe and weake upon a surfeit of meate taken the day before), at last by the peaswasion of his friends hee went forth. Now, when as in the very cloisture through which hee was to passe certaine boyes of noble birth sent for out of Asia (to sing Hymnes, and to skirmish martially upon the Stage) were preparing themselves, he stood still and staied there to view and encourage them. And but that the leader and chieftaine of that crew, said, He was very cold, hee would have returned and presently exhibited that shew. But what befell after this, is reported two manner of waies. Some say, that as he spake unto the said boyes, Chærea came behind his back, and with a drawing blow grievously wounded his neck with the edge of his sword, giving him these words before, *Hoc age, i.* "Mind this:" Whereupon, Cornelius Sabinus, another of the Conspiratours, encountred him a-front, and ranne him through in the brest. Others write, that Sabinus, after the multitude about him was avoided by the Centurions (who were privie to the Conspiracie) called for a watch-word, as the manner is of soldiers, and when Caius gave him the word, Iupiter, Chærea cryed out alowde, *Acciperatum, i.* "Here take it sure:" and with that, as he looked behind him, with one slash, cut his chaw quite thorough: Also as he lay on the ground and drawing up his limmes together cryed still, That he was yet alive, the rest of their complices with thirtie wounds dispatched and made an end of him. For this mot, *Repete, i.* "Strike againe," was the signal of them all. At the very first noise and outerie, his lictor-bearers came running to helpe, with their litter-staves: Soone after, the Germans that were the squires of his bodie came in, and as they slew some of the murderers, so they killed certaine Senatours also that were meere innocent.

"He lived 29 yeares, and ruled the Empire three yeares, 18 moneths and 8 dayes. His dead corps was conveyed secretly into the Læmian hortyards, where being scorched onely, or halfe burnt in a tumultuary and hasty funerall fire, covered it was with a few turfs of earth lightly cast over it: but afterwards, by his sisters now returned out of exile, taken up, burnt to ashes and entered. It is for certain known and reputed, that before this Complement was performed, the keepers of those hortyards were troubled with the walking of spirits and ghosts: and in that very house wherein he was murthered there passed not

a night without some terror or fearfull object, until the very house it selfe was consumed with fire. There dyed together with him, both his Wife Cæsonia, stabbed with a sword by a Centurion, and also a daughter of his, whose braines were dashed out against a wall."

Hence it is perfectly evident that the dead of antiquity were supposed to be quite as restless while their mortal remains were unburnt, as the more modern dead could be, of not being committed to consecrated ground. By whom the belief was first entertained it is not easy to prove; but it is quite certain that Christian ministers had nothing to do with the impostor.

German men are either writers of poetry and romance, or of strictly scientific and philosophical matters, and such things as female writers of first-rate eminence are extremely rare. A Caroline Fichler, a Grafin Hahn-Hahn, a Bettina von Arnim, a daughter of Tieck translating Shakspeare, are rare exceptions. In fact, literary ladies are looked upon as a sort of pretty monsters: and, accordingly, such a series of fine-minded and noble-minded and glorious women as adorn the world of English literature, do not, and cannot, exist in Germany. — *Rural and Domestic Life in Germany.*

HOW TO MAKE A LORD MAYOR.

TAKE some thousands of guineas, with a quantity of India Bonds, Bank Stock, Railway or Mining Shares, a calf's head, turtle soup, champagne, old port, and a loving cup; cover these with a scarlet cloak, and secure the same with a golden chain; mix altogether till they form one mass in which none of the ingredients can be distinctly marked but the scarlet cloak, the golden chain, and the hue of the red port. Place the whole on a bench to settle, under the care of a Marshal; add a little wisdom and wit, or if these are not handy, a few slices of Mr Hobler and essence of Tom Hains will do as well. Half-a-dozen penny-a-liners must then be thrown in, and the preparation will be immediately fit for use.

HOW MR TITE CAME TO BUILD THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

"Twas asked, who should erect this pile,
When Lambert Jones, the City wight,
Thinking of something else the while,
Exclaimed, "the ablest, Blow me! Tite!"

WOOD PAVEMENT.

Sir Peter Laurie, it is understood,
Has awful things of the new pavement said;
Contending there is mischief dire in wood.
How could so hard a thought approach his head?

GARDENING HINTS.

To Kill Insects for the Cabinet.—For such Coleoptera, Dermaptera, Orthoptera, Hemiptera, and Homoptera, as have not bright colours, the readiest way is to shake them out of the boxes into which they have been collected, into a cup of boiling water; then lay them upon blotting-paper, to absorb the moisture. For gay-coloured species of these orders, and such Hymenoptera and Diptera as will allow of the ordinary mode of setting by means of a pin passed through them, plunge the box, if of tin, into the boiling water, or hold them to a fire for a few moments without removing the lids. All the Lepidoptera, except the small Tortricidæ and Tineidæ, and all the Neuroptera, Trichoptera, the larger Hymenoptera, and Diptera, and indeed any insect, may be most expeditiously killed, by piercing the under side of the thorax of the specimen with a pointed quill dipped in a saturated solution of oxalic acid. To kill minute Lepidoptera, which are collected into separate pill-boxes, elevate the lid of each box a little, and pile the boxes thus partially opened under a large tumbler or bell-glass, and burn a brimstone match underneath. Such minute Hymenoptera and Diptera as are mounted on pieces of card-board for the cabinet should be thrown into boiling water, as directed for the majority of the Coleoptera, &c.; judgment ought to be used in placing different genera into one bottle or box, or he may find, after a hard day's collecting, that a Cicindela or Crabro has industriously converted his collection of insects into one of mere legs and wings. In using spirits of wine and corrosive sublimate to kill mites, &c., the loss or change of every bright colour will be the result. The safe plan is to bake the infected insect for a few minutes in a slow oven or in a tin-box.

— When the peaches and apricots are just ready to open their blossoms, you must be ready too with a wash of lime, soot, sulphur, and soft soap, to paint them all over. The later this is done the better. For the other trees on the wall, or in the orchard, six weeks hence will be time enough to wash them; but for any of those on which you have noticed any red spider for the last season or two, you must mix a portion of sulphur with the soot and lime.

— Let not another day pass without uncovering half-hardy plants that have been so thickly covered in anticipation of a hard winter. Let there be no delicacy at all about this matter; strip them all; and if you find that any of the shoots or eyes have made a blanched growth, cut them off, and leave the plants quite exposed; but keep the coverings at hand, to be put

on whenever the thermometer falls four or five degrees below freezing. If you hear anything about "sudden changes," say they are very dangerous on paper, but harmless in the open air, this mild season. —*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

Egyptian Silk.—There is a plant very common on the banks of the Nile, both in Upper Egypt and Nubia, and at Dongola. The silk is manufactured into cords and other substances of domestic use. It usually grows four or five feet high, has largish leaves, which generally have the appearance of being sprinkled with white powder, and bears star-shaped purple flowers, with white eyes, about the size of Auriculas. The pod, when green, has the appearance of a large green peach, but is quite empty with the exception of a small core containing the seeds (enveloped in the silk), which is attached to the skin by small fibres. It is called by the Arabs "Oshour." [This is the *Asclepias* (now called *Calotropis*) *gigantea*, which Forskahl tells us is called by the Arabs "Oschar." It is too tender to live out of a greenhouse in this country. The silky substance surrounding the seeds is of beautiful texture.]

Cabul.—Several ancient writers describe the Macedonians, under Alexander, to have been thrown into an extacy of delight at the discovery of ivy at Nisa (which is generally believed to be the Cabul country), where alone it was to be found in the East. The *Silphium*, spoken of by Arrian, has been conjectured by the late lamented Sir A. Burnes to be the *Assafœtida* which abounds about Cabul; and from him we learn that grapes are there so plentiful as to be given to the cattle for three months of the year. This circumstance is a strong corroboration of the identity of Cabul with Nisa, the birth-place and favoured spot of Bacchus.

Nitrate of Soda.—The rate at which this has been successfully applied to strawberries is 3 oz. to the square yard. The proper season for using it is when the plants are just beginning to grow.

Verbenas.—If Verbenas are wanted for blooming in pots, they should be kept regularly shifted into pots of a larger size as they require it, and should be grown either in a pit or greenhouse, where they receive the full benefit of the sun and air. Any tree, rich soil will suit them.

Gravel Walks.—The best method of extirpating grass which springs up from beneath a gravel walk, and spreads over its surface, is to break up the walk and pick out carefully all the under-ground runners which may be met with. Where it is not desirable to disturb the walk, the best way is to spread salt in considerable

quantities over its whole surface; and if after the first application it is found that portions of the grass still exist, let another coating of salt be applied, which will effectually destroy it. Care must be taken, however, if the walk is edged with Box, that the salt does not come in contact with it, otherwise it will destroy the edging also.

Tulips.—Tulip-beds require to be protected from frost, rain, and snow. If they are covered in mild, open weather, the plants will become drawn, and will consequently flower weakly.

The Gutter.

Woollett the Engraver.—Miss Elizabeth Sophia Woollett, the daughter of the celebrated engraver of that name, is now, at the age of seventy, among the applicants to the National Benevolent Institution for relief. Mr Woollett died in 1785. In 1817 the family were driven by necessity to make over to Messrs Hurst and Robinson, publishers, all Mr Woollett's plates and prints, for the consideration of an annuity for two lives. In six years the firm of Hurst failed; and the only surviving daughter, reduced to penury, and in broken health, depends upon the success of her present application for support. The friends of art will surely do something for the unfortunate lady. When such a suppliant appears "Can pity plead in vain?"

A Chinese Lady's Nails.—Before the evacuation of Ningpo, a report was brought one morning to Mr Gutzlaff, that the head of his Chinese police had disappeared, as also one of his wives, while the other lay murdered in the house. Mr Gutzlaff and myself proceeded to inspect the house. We found the woman on the floor with her throat cut. She had been dead some hours. I observed what appeared thin brown slips of bamboo loosely fastened round her wrists, and remarked to Mr Gutzlaff how singular it was that they should have found it necessary to bind her. But he exclaimed, "*Those are her nails.*" It appears that fine ladies are in the habit when going to bed of softening their nails in warm water, and then winding them round their wrists to prevent their being injured.—*The Last Year in China.*

An Ancient Death-bed.—In sickness, among the Greeks, branches of rhamn and laurel were hung over the door, the former to keep away evil spirits, and the latter to propitiate the god of physic. Some of the hair of the dying person was cut off, and sacrificed to the infernal deities; his friends took leave of him with kisses and embraces; and evil spirits and phantoms were driven from his pillow at

the moment of departure, by the sound of brass kettles.

State Policy.—"It is a pity," said Fouché in confidence to Bourrienne, "that Napoleon's wife does not die; for sooner or later he must take a wife who will bear children. His brothers are revoltingly incapable; his death will be a signal of dissolution, and the Bourbon party will return."

Castilian Wisdom.—During the reign of Charles the Second, of Spain, a company of Dutch contractors offered to render the Mananares navigable from Madrid to where it falls into the Tagus, and the latter from that point to Lisbon. The Council of Castile took this proposal into consideration, and after maturely weighing it, pronounced the singular decision, "That if it had pleased God that these two rivers should have been navigable, he would not have wanted human assistance to have made them such; but, as he has not done it, it is plain he did not think it proper that it should be done."

French Wife-selling.—A letter from Poitiers states that a curious trial is to take place there, in consequence of the husband of a woman, of the arrondissement of Niort, having sold his wife to a neighbour for 110*l.* and five sheep. The money and the sheep were duly delivered; but, when the purchaser went for his new acquisition, he found that she had taken to flight, and gone home to her friends.

The Press in Europe.—There are published in Europe 1,720 daily, weekly, monthly, or quarterly journals.

Small Change.—The smallest coin in circulation in China is of the value of a hundred-thousandth part of six shillings, and bears (in Chinese) the inscription, "Reason's glory's circulating medium;" it is round, with a square hole in its centre. Our forthcoming half-farthings will be something by the side of this portion of the Chinese circulating medium.

Anecdote of Queen Elizabeth.—When Nicholas Clifford and Anthony Shirley, to whom Henry IV had given the order of St Michael, for services in the war, had returned, the Queen sent them to prison, and commanded them to return the order. She thought, that, as a virtuous woman ought to look on none but her husband, so a subject ought not to cast his eyes on any other sovereign than him God hath set over him. "I will not," said she, "have my sheep marked with a strange brand; nor suffer them to follow the pipe of a strange shepherd."

Extraordinary Horse-driving.—A week or two back a Mr Hughes undertook, at Cork, to drive thirteen in hand. The animals were harnessed to a small coach, and he drove them with as much ease and preci-

sion as if he had only been occupied with a tandem.

Spartan Ladies.—Among the Spartans, the females had games of their own, at which they appeared naked, to contend in running, wrestling, throwing quoits, and shooting darts. They also danced and sung naked at the solemn feasts and sacrifices, while the young men stood round them; and all this, we are told, without offence to true modesty.

The Good Old Times.—In ancient Greece the state was tasked, so to speak, with the duty of amusing the citizens. All Greece crowded to the Olympic games, to hear Herodotus read his history. At Athens, the funds of the theatre were provided before those of the fleet; and the affairs of the republic, after being settled in assemblies, where every free man took a part in the discussion, were regularly dramatised into a comedy by Aristophanes. Religious festivals, gymnastic sports, political deliberations, meetings of the academy, orators, rhetoricians, philosophers, all followed each other in uninterrupted succession, and kept the citizens always animated, and always in a crowd.

Price of Bread in France.—Bread of the first quality in Paris is 30 cents. per kilogramme, about 5d. per 4lb. English, and the price of bread in London at the full-priced bakers being 7d. per 4lb. loaf, it follows that bread is $46\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dearer in London than in Paris.

Robespierre a Lover of the Fine Arts.—During the rage for changing everything, which characterised the French Republic, it was decided by the government that the national costume should be altered; and M. Denon, who, so that he might be permitted to engrave, was always ready to work for angel or devil, was employed about the intended transmutation of the coat of the Frenchman into the Roman toga. He was summoned, M. Coupin writes, by the Committee of Public Safety, to report the progress of the work on which he was employed; twelve o'clock at night was the time appointed. He arrived at the precise hour, but the committee was sitting with closed doors, to discuss, as he was told, matters of importance, and M. Denon was obliged to wait. Two hours passed, during which he heard occasionally loud bursts of laughter, that afforded a strange contrast to the kind of business with which the committee was commonly engaged, and proved that their conversation was not so serious as he had been informed. At last Robespierre came out, and unexpectedly entered the room where M. Denon was sitting. On perceiving a stranger, the savage countenance of the tribune contracted, and as-

sumed an expression of terror, mingled with anger. He asked the unhappy artist who he was, and what he was doing there at that hour? M. Denon thought he was a lost man: he told his name, however, and answered that he came in obedience to the summons he had received, and was waiting until he should be called. Robespierre immediately softened; he conducted M. Denon into the chamber, passed part of the remainder of the night in chatting with him, and during the whole of their conversation endeavoured to convince him that he was a lover of the fine arts, and had the tastes and manners of a man who had seen good society.

Chinese Proverbs.—"Man perishes in the pursuit of wealth, as a bird meets with destruction in search of its food."—"Those who respect themselves will be honourable; but he who thinks lightly of himself, will be held cheap by the world."—"Time flies like an arrow; days and months like a weaver's shuttle."—"In making a candle we seek for light, in reading a book we seek for reason; light to illuminate a dark chamber; reason to enlighten man's heart."

A Chinese Maiden.—"There is only one heaven," said a forlorn maiden, when her parents upbraided her for spending her days in sorrowful libations of salt tears at the tomb of her lover;—"and he was that heaven to me!"

Paris Academy of Sciences, Jan. 24.—A paper was read on the respiratory functions of the human species at the different periods of life, and according to sex, by M. Bourguery. M. Bourguery deduces from his experiments that the respiration of a healthy man of thirty years of age is equal in strength to that of two weak men, or two strong or four weak women, or two boys of fifteen, or four boys of seven, or four old men of eighty-five.

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